Everyone’s Talking About Nimai

Scene One- At Jagannath Misra's Residence

1st Devotee: (Three devotees enter hurriedly) Saci devi!

Sacimata: Yes, I'm over here.

1st Devotee: Did you hear about Nimai?

Sacimata: Nimai? What happened to Him? Is He all right?

1st Devotee: Is He all right? You should ask about the poor Brahmanas He's been playing tricks on! What a rascal He is!

Sacimata: Oh, thank Heavens!

1st Devotee: Thank Heavens He's playing tricks on the Brahmanas?

Sacimata: No, I didn' t mean that; I'm just happy that nothing has happened to my precious child, Nimai.

1st Devotee: Oh, you can expect something to happen all right.
My brother told me that Nimai pulled Keshava Pandit's legs right out from under him while he was standing in the Ganges River chanting his gayatri mantra, today.

Sacimata: No, not Keshava Pandit! He's always so serious!!

2nd Devotee: And it takes him twice as long to chant gayatri as it does anyone else!

3rd Devotee: Hush!

2nd Devotee: Well, it's true. That must have been funny!

1st Devotee: It was! My brother said that Keshava Pandit was so mad that his face looked just like a fish because his eyes got so big!!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: What did he do?

1st Devotee: What did who do?

Sacimata: Keshava Pandit. He must have ran after Nimai?

2nd Devotee: No one ever catches Nimai. He's too fast.

1st Devotee: Of course he tried to run after Nimai, but he didn't get very far. He was huffing and puffing before he'd run even ten feet! You should have seen him!

2nd Devotee: I wish I could have been there!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: You girls should not speak so of your elders!

2nd Devotee: Yes. Oh look, here's Rupa!

Sacimata: Hello Rupa. What brings you out here?

Rupa: I just wanted to drop off some mangoes from our garden.
(Rupa hands over a sack.)

Sacimata: How nice, thank you!

Rupa: Is Nimai here?

Sacimata: No, He's not back from bathing yet.

2nd Devotee: You told me that you had to help your mother sew for the market on Sunday.

Rupa: Well, I do. Weren't you going to make butter, today?

2nd Devotee: I did, I'm doing it I mean I'm almost done.

1st Devotee: It's obvious that your son is like Cupid, Saci devi. He has captured all our hearts.

Rupa: Did you hear how Nimai stole Manu's offering, yesterday?

1st Devotee: I heard about it from my brother.

2nd Devotee: I didn't hear about it at all, tell me.

Rupa: Manu had his eyes closed and Nimai crept up and grabbed the whole offering he was making - the laddhus (sweets), the sweet rice, the garland - everything! Nimai even started to eat the sweets as He was running away.

3rd Devotee: Did you ever hear of such a trick!

2nd Devotee: Oh, that's not all! While Manu was chasing Him, Nimai kept yelling back, "You've called Me and I have come, why are you so angry?" And Nimai was laughing the whole time!

All: (laughter)

3rd Devotee: I thought you didn't hear about it.

2nd Devotee: Well, I may have heard part of it.

3rd Devotee: He's so bad!

2nd Devotee: Do you think He'll get a reaction for being so naughty?

1st Devotee: You know, Saci devi, Nimai stays in the water until past two o'clock every day; that can't be good for His health.

2nd Devotee: No, of course not.

Rupa: Saci Mata, your son has been behaving badly to us girls, lately when we go to bathe in the Ganges.

2nd Devotee: You won't believe the mean tricks that He's been playing.

Sacimata: Oh, dear!

Rupa: Yesterday, we saw Him sneak up behind Chintamani and yell "HARI BOL!" right in her ear!

2nd Devotee: He frightened her so that I thought she was going to faint!

Rupa: And that was after He took all the fruits and flowers we'd brought to the Ganges to use in our puja and threw them all over the banks!

2nd Devotee: Who does Nimai think He is, a prince or something?

1st Devotee: Actually, all these naughty pranks of His remind me of the pastimes of Gopal Krsna in Vrndavan.

Rupa: Saci devi, you really must discipline your child! He broke my Mother's butter pot again this week!

1st Devotee: See? Just like Gopal!

Sacimata: Perhaps it was someone else.

Rupa: No, it was Nimai. I saw Him running behind our house.

Sacimata: I know He's mischievous and I have spoken to Him. I don't know why He does the things He does, truly I don't.

Rupa: He should be punished.

1st Devotee: He needs to be taught a lesson.
(Another devotee enters.)
Syama! I didn't expect you until later. Why are you dressed so funny? Whose clothes do you have on?

Syama: I don't know.

1st Devotee: You don't know whose clothes you're wearing?

Syama: Honestly, I don't. I just came back from bathing. Nimai switched all the clothes. We had to put on whatever we could find. When we chastised Him He said that we had better be careful or He would curse us to have old husbands with four co-wives.

2nd Devotee: Oh, Saci devi, can Nimai really do that!?

3rd Devotee: Four co-wives? Oh no!

1st Devotee: He really has outdone Himself today.

Rupa: Well, Saci Mata, what are you going to do?

1st Devotee: Mark my words, He'll become a dacoit of some kind if you're not careful!

Rupa: Some of the Brahmanas are really mad; my Pita said so.
I heard that they are coming over to talk to Jagannath Misra this every day.

Sacimata: You are right. Nimai must be taught a good lesson.
I've been patient until now, but I see that He must be severely punished.

1st Devotee: What will you do to Him?

2nd Devotee: You won't punish Him too hard will you?

3rd Devotee: After all, He's just mischievous.

Sacimata: Yes, that's true. He would never really hurt anybody.

Syama: It was really funny when no could find their clothes! Keshava Pandit had to wrap a pink sari around himself! He looked so humorous!!

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Look, there is Keshava Pandit running by now!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs by. He looks very embarrassed.)

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Have you ever noticed how Nimai's eyes dance when He's being naughty?

All: Oh, yes!

3rd Devotee: His smile is like sweet nectar!

All: Yes! Just like nectar!

2nd Devotee: You won't be too hard on Him, will you, Saci devi? I mean, boys will be boys.

3rd Devotee: Yes, don't be too hard on Him.

Rupa: Look, there's Nimai! He's coming down the road!

2nd Devotee: Just see his innocent face! He couldn't possibly have done anything wrong!

Rupa: Let's go out and see Him!

2nd Devotee: I thought you had to go back and help your Mata.

Rupa: I will, I will!

2nd Devotee: You just came here to see Nimai!

Rupa: So did you!

2nd Devotee: I never said I didn't.
(Nimai enters their company.)

Rupa: Nimai, I brought you some mangoes!

Syama: I've brought you some sweets. They have coconut in them; I just made them for you today!
(Nimai, Rupa and Syama move away from the others.)

2nd Devotee: How my heart beats every time I see Nimai's face!

3rd Devotee: I thought it was just mine that did that!

2nd Devotee: Who is this boy who has captivated our minds so?

3rd Devotee: He's such a rascal, but at every moment that I don't see Him, it feels like it's been a lifetime!

1st Devotee: How fortunate we are that Mother Saci's beautiful golden Child graces our village with His pastimes!

2nd Devotee: Look, there goes Keshava Pandit again!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs through again, looking embarrassed. Everyone laughs. Bhajan.)